



News & Events

University News & Information

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California

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Canadian Celtic Band Comes to Cal Poly February 3

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA -- Leahy, the awe-inspiring eight-member brother and sister act from Canada, are a whirlwind triple threat of fiddle-driven Celtic music, dance, and vocals.

Cal Poly Arts presents the celebrated group on Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 8 p.m. at the Christopher Cohan Center.

"Ferocious and extremely energetic...FOUR STARS!" (Chicago Sun-Times)

At the center of the group is oldest brother Donnell, who is internationally-proclaimed as one of the best fiddle players on the music scene today.

The Leahy Clan grew up in Lakefield, Ontario. Each of the Leahy children learned to play fiddle from their father, while their mother -- a champion step-dancer born and raised in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia -- taught them to sing, dance and play piano.

The siblings gained popularity touring as the "Leahy Family," and their recognition increased with the release of a student documentary about the family, entitled "Leahy: Music Most of All." The film won an Academy Award in 1985 for Best Foreign Student Film.

In 1996, the group made their mark on the Canadian recording scene with the release of their debut self-titled CD. Subsequent touring earned Leahy a total of three Juno Awards -- as Best Instrumental Group and Best New Group in 1997, and an award for Best Country Group or Duo in 1998.

It was during the 1998 Juno Award telecast that Leahy's live performance was seen by pop/country star Shania Twain, who invited the group to

join her upcoming two-year worldwide tour.

Leahy was catapulted into an international spotlight, performing in stadiums and amphitheatres where they were rewarded with standing ovations every night. Leahy played 175 tour dates with Twain and appeared on her two U.S. television network specials.

In 2001, Leahy released their second CD, "Lakefield," which reached sales over 400,000. Leahy will release their third studio album next month, "In All Things," which showcases the group's genuine love of a diverse range of music and their unique creativity.

"The title 'In All Things,' refers to music," explains Erin Leahy. "It is our spirit, it is how we are connected, it is a reflection of our experiences throughout life."

Tickets for the performance range from \$22 - \$34, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.

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For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit www.calpolyarts.org.

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